

What is claimed is:

1. A network maintenance tool, comprising:
  - an interface associated with at least one network device;
  - a device detection module coupled to the interface, the device detection module configured to receive at least one device parameter from the at least one network device and to generate a device template based on the at least one device parameter; and
  - a translation engine coupled to the device detection module, the translation engine configured to store the device template.
2. The tool of claim 1, wherein the translation engine is further configured to translate a command received from a user based on the device template, the translation engine is further configured to send the translated command to the at least one network device.
3. The tool of claim 1, wherein the translation engine is further configured to parse a command received from a user into a plurality of parsed commands, translate each of the plurality of parsed commands based on the device template, and send the translated plurality of parsed commands to the at least one network device.
4. The tool of claim 1, wherein the translation engine is further configured to read and translate incoming data from the at least one network device based on the device template.
5. The tool of claim 1, further comprising a visual development module configured to allow a user to construct device-specific commands.
6. Code associated with a graphical user interface for use with a network maintenance tool, the graphical user interface allowing a user to construct device-specific commands, comprising:
  - a device selection pane code configured to receive a user selection associated with a device;
  - a command entry pane code configured to receive a user-selected indication of a command associated with the device, the command being based on a native operating system;and

a interface pane code configured to send data based on execution of the constructed command.

7. The graphical user interface of claim 6, further comprising:  
an available commands pane code configured to output all previously defined commands for the selected device; and  
an available display element pane code configured to output modifiable display elements for displaying the data based on execution of the constructed command.

8. A method for managing a network device, comprising:  
constructing a command for a selected network device;  
reading configuration information from the selected network device;  
creating a device template based on the configuration information;  
translating the constructed command into a format appropriate for the selected network device, the translating based on the device template; and  
transmitting the translated command to the selected network device.

9. The method of claim 9, wherein constructing the command is enabled by a graphical user interface.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein translating the constructed command includes parsing the constructed command into a plurality of parsed commands, each of the parsed commands formatted appropriately for the selected network device.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising translating data received from the selected network device, the data resulting from execution of the translated command, the translating received data based on the device template.

12. A system for managing a communications network, comprising:  
a graphical user interface configured to enter and issue a router command;  
a translator coupled to the graphical user interface, the translator configured to translate the router command into a format appropriate for a router; and

a link to the router, the link coupled to the translator and configured as an Input/Output Supervisor having a Command Line Interface.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the graphical user interface is further configured to issue the router command based on customized command Macros.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the graphical user interface is further configured to receive and display data from the router.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the link includes a Telnet emulator.